

Wycombe Wanderers 0, Derby County 6

THE TECHNIQUE and pure class which has lifted Derby County to the threshold of the toughest competition in world soccer—the First Division of the English Football League—was amply displayed at Loakes Park on Wednesday evening.

In the mould of thorough, highly-drilled professionals, Derby never ceased the flow of efficient, imaginative and uninhibited football.

Even on a bone hard pitch, their passing at times was deadly accurate—a sheer joy to watch. The ball switched from man to man with the minimum of effort and nearly always along the ground.

Derby's latest signing, Frank Wignall, from Nottingham Forest, made his debut for his new side and notched two of his team's six goals.

With Dave Mackay shouting orders to his fellow colleagues in the defence, Derby's organised rearguard always looked in command, with Ray McFarland in supreme form at centre-half.

REJOICED

The Derby players obviously rejoiced in the freedom which was granted to them—a rare luxury nowadays in tight back zones where players hardly have the space to breathe let alone carve out openings—and capitalised on Wycombe's slack marking.

What can one say of Wanderers' performance? They always kept hunting for openings, which were few and far between, even though the goals flowed at a steady rate.

However, Wycombe can be well satisfied with their display in the opening half-hour. Within minutes of the start Samuels split the Derby defence to give Horseman an opportunity, but Green was quickly out of his goal to fly-hack clear.

Green's positive goalkeeping in the 18-yard area was faultless. His handling was majestic and he always set his side in motion with an accurate throw to an unmarked colleague.

Derby's distribution and running off the ball reached a high degree, with Durban and Mackay

supplying the drive in midfield.

Just before O'Hare cannoned a fierce drive against the post, Worley made a jinking run down his wing, slipping past two defenders, and tested Green with a fine 20-yard drive.

The majority of Wycombe's scoring attempts were restricted to outside the box, where Derby always had a line of defenders strung out along the 18-yard line.

TOP GEAR

Derby moved easily into top gear just past the half-hour stage, when Wignall waltzed past two tackles—almost as though the players did not exist—turned in the space of a sixpence and placed a low shot past Maskell.

A glorious reverse flick paved the way for Derby's second goal in the 40th minute. Wignall laid the ball off neatly and Hinton shot in. On the stroke of half-time Hinton netted his second.

For the second half Wanderers brought on John Pratt in place of Maskell, Faulkner replaced Rundle, and Busby took over the right-wing spot from Worley.

HAT-TRICK

Within three minutes Hinton had taken his hat-trick, thanks to slack marking in the defence. The best goal of the match came soon after, when Durban snapped up a loose pass inside his own area, weaved past five defenders before completing a fine solo effort.

Wignall whipped in his side's final goal nine minutes from the end with a typical piece of opportunism from the former England international.

Derby manager Brian Clough commented afterwards: "We were

very pleased with the work-out they gave us."

Wycombe Wanderers; J. Maskell (J. Pratt); L. Temel, C. Gale; J. Lailey, I. Rundle (V. Faulkner), D. Thomas; L. Worley (V. Busby), B. Baker, K. Samuels, A. Horsman, P. Slater.

Derby County: Green; Webster, Robson; Durban, McFarland, Mackay; McGovern, Wignall, O'Hare, Hector, Hinton.